

THE VANISHING MINORITY.

To the earnest Democrat the present weakness of the Republican party in Virginia should be a matter of deep concern. Domination by the Republicans would be a calamity, but opposition is a blessing.

The party without opposition is the party without power; an army which faces no enemy in the gate ceases to be vigilant. Here in Virginia, as all thoughtful men agree, the absence of a militant, aggressive minority is largely responsible for the indifference of Democratic voters.

Forced to no constructive policy to win votes and lacking that spur which has urged us on in national politics, we have lapsed and we have lingered. We have wasted opportunities we should have utilized and we have devoted to strife within the party the energies we should have employed in united efforts for the public weal.

Even those who appreciate these facts do not realize that the weakness of the minority, now so manifest in the failure to oppose Mr. Stuart, has been a gradual process. Only those who will tabulate the vote in the gubernatorial campaigns for the last forty years will understand how surely the Republicans are vanishing from Virginia.

Indeed, only once in the last forty years have they failed, as at this time, to nominate an opposition ticket. That was in 1877, when Holliday was chosen without a contest, and even then strife within the Republican ranks rather than weakness gave us the election by default. At other times, to be sure, the Republicans have voted for the nominees of a passing third party, but they have always been able to cast their ballots against us except at the time mentioned.

The following table will make this plain, the figures being taken from the Annual Cyclopaedia and from standard almanacs:

Walker, Compromise.....	119,535
Walker, Republican.....	191,294
1873.	
Kemper, Democrat.....	120,738
Hughes, Republican.....	92,439
1877.	
Holliday, Democrat, no opposition.....	
Cameron, Republican.....	111,473
Daniel, Democrat.....	95,173
1881.	
Lee, Democrat.....	153,744
Wise, Republican.....	136,510
1885.	
McKinney, Democrat.....	162,654
Malone, Republican.....	129,654
1889.	
O'Ferrall, Democrat.....	127,546
Cooke, Republican.....	81,239
1893.	
Tyler, Democrat.....	168,453
McCauley, Republican.....	95,473
1901.	
Montague, Democrat.....	116,682
Hoke, Republican.....	131,269
1905.	
Swanson, Democrat.....	83,544
Lewis, Republican.....	45,795
1909.	
Starr, Democrat.....	70,760
Leah, Republican.....	49,257

This table contains much upon which the student may reflect.

Incidentally, it shows that while the Republican vote after the new Constitution has brought a reduction in their strength of almost 40,000, the minority was losing ground long before the Constitution was adopted. A party which has polled 136,510 votes in 1885 was practically dead in 1887; it could muster but 65,610.

Moreover, in studying these figures we would remind our readers that there is now an added element of weakness in the ranks of the Virginia Republicans, in that they have lost the Federal patronage upon which they lived. It was not difficult, in 1887, to find a Republican who would "sacrifice" himself for his party and be rewarded with a new Federal office. But now that the Democrats control the national as well as the State offices, "martyrs" are not to be found.

But equally as ominous as the diminution of the Republicans in Virginia is the decrease in the Democratic vote. Cause and effect doubtless operate here, for Democrats will not go to the polls when there is no Republican opposition; yet the outcome is an apathy, a lack of interest and an unconcern among Democrats, which must react disastrously.

RICHMOND A GREAT CENTRE.

Any plan which tends to lower the cost of living is of far reaching interest to people of Virginia, and this is especially true when the plan is financed and controlled by business men of Richmond, in whom the public has the utmost confidence.

The people of this section for years have been purchasing supplies from "mail-order" houses in the North and West, sending them money and trade away from this city. It is an evidence, therefore, of growth and prosperity that it is now planned to inaugurate here a great industry to be known as the Union Stores, Inc., which will furnish the same shopping advantages to this section which the people of the North and West have long enjoyed.

This is just another evidence of the industrial advancement of Richmond. Some men would grieve if the caddy had to carry a stone.

If they do anything at all to the roads in Hanover County it will be improving them.

LESS SENTIMENT, MORE SCIENCE.

From the foggy swirl of ignorance, prejudice, sentiment and gossip that has enveloped the status and future of the Virginia Industrial Home for Girls, certain main facts begin to loom clear. The biggest of these is that Virginia cannot afford to scatter the young women now protected at the Home anywhere over the State. Humanity asserts this no more vigorously than does the necessity for preventing the increase of feeble-minded charges upon the Commonwealth by reproduction through these potential mothers.

The next main fact in the unpleasant case is that we need more science, and less sentiment in handling this most delicate problem. We have had too much uninformed philanthropy, and not enough enlightened psychology. The problems presented by this type of girl are not such as can be solved by good intentions. The methods of the orphan asylum and the old ladies' home cannot be used successfully. A board of ministers and business men cannot do the work of experts in mental and moral delinquency. They have neither the training nor experience needed.

Nor has The Times-Dispatch such expert knowledge, but it does believe that an essential for the future handling of these girls is that the feeble-minded be segregated from the normal girls, and further that there be less indiscriminate mixing of different ages. To treat feeble-minded women and women who have been morally wayward, through weakness of will, or through the results of economic or social influences, both in the same way is wrong. The first class is morally blind; the second has made a mistake.

The feeble-minded should be cared for permanently in State colonies. The Legislature should make provision for the segregation of these women according to the plan begun since the last Assembly. They can become in part self-supporting, and they will be removed from the list of menaces to our social welfare.

The wayward girls of normal mind need different care. They need first of all a place of refuge and the uplifting influence of good environment. They can be saved in a majority of cases by kindness, instruction and healthful discipline. When they have been put on the right road, they can be placed in good homes, or provided with the means of earning an honest living. Richmond might well consider the establishment of such a home for its own unfortunate. The other class is rightly a State charge.

It is not clear how the transfer of the Home to the Florence Crittenden Mission workers will help Bon Air, unless the management is such as to remove the cause for complaint. Yet the case can be settled hopefully if we stop guessing and talking and do more thinking.

THEN AND NOW IN TAXATION.

The tax reform agitation in Virginia has narrowed itself to two questions and upon those the representatives of the people must decide. All else is incidental and unimportant.

The first of these is whether or not, at a single session of Assembly, we shall attempt a revolutionary policy of comprehensive reform, such as is proposed by Mr. Moore and Mr. King. Complete separation—no Virginians alone use the word "segregation"—means the changing of every tax-rate in Virginia, the readjustment of every levy and the upheaval of every budget.

It means that every city and every county will have to change the rate of every tax it imposes on every class of property and will have to take over much of the work of assessment now done by the State. Even if it be possible to devise a system of separation that will be just and equitable, are the people of Virginia ready for this revolution? That is the first question.

The second is, are the representatives of the people willing to vest in a board of equalization sufficient authority to get just assessments? If the Assembly will concede this, the road to reform is plain. If the Assembly will not delegate the power necessary, our pioneers must seek us a new route.

It was upon this issue, our readers will recall, that the tax commission bill of 1912 was defeated. The tax commission of that year mapped out a more or less comprehensive line of reform; it drafted nineteen bills and placed these in the hands of friendly members of the Assembly. The commission were soon convinced, however, that the Legislature was in no humor for such legislation and they abandoned all the bills except the two dealing with mineral assessments and the establishment of a permanent tax commission.

In the latter bill, as first approved by the Finance Committee, the principle of centralized administration was frankly laid down. The bill, to be sure, did not delegate to the proposed commission half the authority possessed by like bodies in other States, but it contained the germ of the theory. As recommitment and amendment it was but the shadow of a bill, as badly plucked as the primary bill when it emerged from the Senate, yet it contained enough of the theory of centralized authority to insure its further consideration.

That bill, weak though it then was, passed the House with a lopping majority of one and met its death in the Senate committee. And it was defeated because, in the judgment of many members, it gave too much authority to a few men.

The same issue must be faced in the next Assembly and, if separation proves impracticable, the same issue will be the determining factor in deciding whether or not we are to have any reform. Will the Assembly grant to a commission—we care not how it be chosen—the powers necessary to equalize assessments? That is the vital question.

We don't care how many cups of coffee, Rio gives T. R. But Rio had better watch out he doesn't put a little "R" in her name.

PLEDGES TO BE KEPT.

The construction of the new Young Woman's Christian Association building may have to be suspended unless those who subscribed to the building fund complete the payment of their pledges. Richmond cannot afford to let this happen. The building is under way, it is badly needed, and should be ready for use by February, 1914. The money has been pledged, and it should be forthcoming promptly. The mere statement of the need should be enough to arouse the delinquent subscribers to the fact that they are delinquent.

Payments of subscriptions on the building fund should have been completed by June 1, 1913, yet \$35,000 remains overdue and unpaid. The Y. W. C. A. finds itself in the embarrassing situation of having entered into contracts for work that it is now unable to pay for. The association acted in good faith, believing the pledges to represent available funds. We believe that it was justified in this faith, and that the unpaid subscriptions have been merely neglected or overlooked. The time has come, however, when no further delay is possible. The obligations of the association must be met, and this means that pledges must be kept. In behalf of the responsible members and for the sake of Richmond's young women and good name, the Times-Dispatch urges that subscribers take prompt steps to meet this obligation. Work on the new building must not stop. Send the promised check to Mrs. C. P. Walford.

POLK MILLER—PATRIOT.

We have delayed writing of our friend Polk Miller until we could see what our contemporaries had to say of him. We had a very definite appreciation of him, and a very positive view of his services, and we hoped that his admirers in other States knew and would write the facts.

There have been scores of tender references to him in the press of the country. Discerning editors, quick to see the true and to commend the noble, found in his humble, gentle life inspiration for beautiful tributes. From every city in Virginia, from North and South, even from the West have come exchanges that bemoan his death.

But in none of these have we found that which we looked for—the story of his introduction to the lecture-platform. We valued Polk Miller not only because he was a genial artist and a delineator of unique character types. We valued him not only because he was a friend of every worthy cause and a champion of honor. We valued him most because he was a patriot, and we found in the story of his platform-career a beautiful illustration of our noblest ideals.

Twenty years ago—if we may tell the story—Polk Miller had a northern neighbor who had come to appreciate the South. That neighbor was Dr. J. K. Hazen, well-known and well-beloved. Learning from Mr. Miller's stories the rare character of the man and seeing in the genial story-teller the spirit of the South toward the negro, Dr. Hazen told Mr. Miller that he had a duty to perform. "The North," he said, "needs your story—it needs to learn how the Southern gentleman regards the old-time Southern negro. As a patriotic citizen, you should go on the platform and introduce the negro to the North."

Polk Miller remembered that, pondered on it, and at last, in his gentle, unassuming manner, told Dr. Hazen that he would follow his suggestion. The rest is history, too fresh to be repeated. Patriot that he was, he visited practically every city of the North and portrayed the old South in a new light. Men who came to laugh remained to wonder and went away to remember.

Polk Miller was an institution, a gentleman, a Christian and a patriot, to whom none can succeed.

WATCHING THE WIRELESS.

The radio law which was passed by Congress after the Titanic disaster has at last been put into effect and has been used to convict a New York amateur, who amused himself with intercepting messages.

The importance of a clear field for the wireless in cases of marine disaster prompted the enactment of this law, but the growing importance of wireless would have forced the passage of such a measure even had not the Titanic shown the need of legal provision.

Already the powers are spreading their wireless antennae over their possessions, in an effort to establish a system of communication, which can never be interrupted. Great Britain, it will be recalled, made an arrangement with the Marconi Company last year, by which it will have in 1914 a system of wireless station belting the earth.

Belgium has taken similar steps for the control of the Congo; and Germany, leading the others, has provided for island stations which will act as lighthouses, to so speak, for her aerial fleet.

By a very ingenious device, these stations send out waves of stipulated intensity, which can be received by a dirigible and located according to their character and wave-length. A station at Damstadt, for instance, will send out the letter "D" or a like letter and will not vary the intensity of the wave at any time. In consequence, a dirigible a hundred miles away, receiving the letter "D" and measuring the wave-length will know its distance from Damstadt. By catching the message from another station on the opposite bow, it can fix its location precisely.

The new law will expedite these efforts to improve the wireless and will doubtless serve until our inventors have perfected a device by which all wireless may be accurately "keyed" and will not conflict.

Dr. Gildersleeve the greatest Grecian of them all, is eighty-two years old, and planning work for another half century. His one-time colleague at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Osler, had better change the age-limit for euthanasia.

ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT

By ROY K. MOULTON.

The villain. The gods up in the gallery delight to wield the hammer. Upon the villain in the good old weedy meadow stands a bunch of boys. The hero gets the wild applause, the bouquets and the kisses. The villain, however, is a bunch of boys and angry hisses. He plays a part in Little Kate, the Garbage Dealer's Daughter. Pursues the maid with fabled sort of cunning till he's caught her. "Ha, ha, me laughing beauty. You'll wed me or I'll take the farm. It's not your hisses, but our ear." "Ha, ha, me laughing beauty." The hero, who has a tip upon the villain's capers. Steps in and strikes an attitude and says: "Give me these papers!" A fight ensues that makes the Gans and the Nones look sick. The villain stabs the hero in the solar plexus quickly. And then, having over the cliff in manner most dramatic. The while pronouncing maledictions cruel and emphatic.

But when he gets home from the show this brave fire-eating villain is quite a different person with no plots and plans for killing. He quails whenever his wife picks up the rolling pin and looks at him. He dares not fire the hired girl or argue with the plumber. Or tell the team to go to the realm of constant summer. Though on the stage he robbed a bank and got a wad of money. If he can protect his wife give him 5 cents at home, it's funny. Though at the matinee he won by plot a girl named Aileen. At home he dares not bat an eye in any maid's direction. Upon the stage he is a hero, a strength cause him to be admired. At home the mere suggestion of a maid makes him shiver. In other words, this howling fiend who sends stage persons fleeing, is nothing more or less than just a common human being.

The Dairy of a Bonehead.

When the neighbors got up a dinner party, Mr. Higgins always was the party, they said to me: "You furnish the automobile and we will take care of the rest of the expenses." That looked fair enough, and so I loaded seven neighbors into my old second-hand automobile and started for Mr. Higgins' place, which was seventeen miles up country. On day of hard ice, with a thin and broke the belt to my radiator fan, also lost both license tags.

I figured it out afterwards that no one beside myself had expended more than 15 cents for the evening's entertainment. Higgins' place, which was seventeen miles up country, was partially as follows:

Refrigerator	\$5.00
Refrigerator radiator	3.00
Two license tags	3.00
Out-of-pocket expenses	2.00
Damaging farmer's cow by spill	5.00
Shoe	25.00
Gasoline	1.00
Oil	.35
Total	\$45.35

According to Uncle Abner.

There ain't no gown made so tight but that there is some woman thin enough to wear it. Bud Hicks wanted to mail a letter to his gal, who works in a restaurant down town, and he didn't have the postage. He stuck around until the letter into the mailbox without any stamp. A lot of men holler about these here thin skirts while they are arguing with their wives, but don't say a word agin' 'em any more.

The 15-cent magazine contains about 12 cents worth of advertising and 2 cents worth of reading matter. The worst about a little Mexican boy is that he may some time grow up to be President.

Voice of the People

Divorce and the Protestant Episcopal Convention. Sir—I noted recently the introduction of resolutions concerning marriage and divorce into the house of the Protestant Episcopal church, convening in New York. All those who are in the divorce business, except one, should not so approach of states and religious bodies. The one in question is the refusal of a divorced person who was blameless in a divorce to be remarried. I think divorce on certain grounds should be permitted, and the State or church that refuses to allow innocent persons to marry deprives them of their personal rights and goes counter to divine law.

While no one would be so presumptuous as to claim ability to give for all time the best divorce rule in view of present conditions in this country, divorce should be granted on the basis of such a man that prolonged desertion, hopeless insanity, imprisonment for a long term, and separation by force or fraud. I cannot think that Christ intended his people to be a universal commandment under all conditions of society and for all times.

Let a marriage solemnized several months ago in your city—a marriage that, I think, if the facts are stated in the newspaper columns, should be annulled and the innocent party allowed to marry. I refer to the case in which the relatives of a bride and groom here to desert the bride the same day of the ceremony. Let me mention another instance that I think would warrant annulment and remarriage.

More than half-dozen years ago in the neighborhood of New York, a girl, a wife, a mother, cloped with a man.

Judging from the statement Sulzer issued to the public immediately after his impeachment, this self-proclaimed "voice of the people" has no choice of his own, but in obedience to the mandate of the law, was compelled to act against him.

Walker Ford, Va., October 29, 1913.

Polk Miller Sang at Pine Camp.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Among the many people who will miss Polk Miller, I think he should be numbered the inmates of Pine Camp. Every Christmas he would come to Pine Camp and sing to the inmates and give an entertainment without cost to the society for the patients there.

His friends here have those poor suffering people cannot be expressed in mere words.

AN OFFICER OF PINE CAMP.

Tribute to Polk Miller. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—In the death of Polk Miller, Virginia has lost one of her most loyal sons, devoted to his native State for many years had before large audiences in the North, as well as the South, told in his inimitable way, jokes and stories that were the real folk lore of the Old Dominion. Loyal that, statehood and patriotism have not been born into the world.

As a Southern educator he occupied a

WHEN DAD WAS A BOY.

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1913, by John T. McCutcheon.)



The Wedding.

place that will be hard to fill, for he, in a humorous way, showed plainly the relations that should exist between the white and colored man of the South. As a raconteur, as a lecturer, he pleased the people both North and South, that it is said that the late Mark Twain remarked, after hearing him, that Polk Miller and his quartet were the only original things left in America.

The writer knew him, and offers this simple tribute to one who, while life lasted, was so much to be admired, the best traditions of his native State. J. M. BELL.

Let All Women Protect the Weak.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—As Sydney Harrison says I am writing "a little piece" to the paper to call the attention of our fellow citizens to an inequality in our laws that appears to me most glaring. I hope you will find space for it in your fair-minded paper.

Quote from The Times-Dispatch of Tuesday, the 11th inst.: "Harvey Williams, confessed white slaver, was yesterday sentenced to one year and one day in prison by Judge Waddill in the United States District Court. He will go to the Federal penitentiary at Alderson, W. Va. He was charged with transporting Annie Bahner from Baltimore to Norfolk for immoral purposes."

"Pleading guilty to larceny on the high seas, Charles Lewis, a colored man, was yesterday sentenced to five months in the Federal prison. Lewis was charged with stealing a gold watch and a diamond pin, valued at \$200."

For stealing property worth \$200, a man gets a heavier punishment than one who confesses to having ruined a woman body and soul. I say one woman, a confessed white slaver, if he ruins the business of a hundred women, he is perhaps responsible for the ruin of many, many souls.

The point to which I would like to call attention of good men and women, is the peculiar attitude of mind which is shown in the law, which values the unlawful taking of property, than upon the fearful crime of white slavery. Who is responsible for this strange perversion of justice? Certainly not the judge, who is merely administering the law. The law is the fault. For this remarkable twist in the minds of our legislators? Our men claim, and the antisuffragists claim, that women have all the protection they need. Is it protection, when the honor of a woman, the sacredness of her person, is valued at less than \$200 worth of jewelry? Can men who call themselves chivalrous, gentlemen, consider themselves justified in killing a man who insults one of their womenfolk, call such laws as these "protective"? Is it not a wonder that women having come at last to a realization of these injustices in their minds, are so ready to rebel against their continuance? What are the antisuffragists doing about these statutes that show that the Virginians, until they join with the suffragists in an effort to get these inadequate laws repealed, are not more or less responsible for them?

Let me take this to heart, and show how working with us, that the suffragists are not the only women who care for and love their fallen sisters, who so often, as has been proved again and again, are unwilling victims and not responsible for their miserable condition.

A. DOOLEY.

Queries and Answers

Hall of Fame.

Please tell me where the Hall of Fame is, and what persons are now immortalized there. M. G. On University Heights, in New York City, Washington, Lincoln, Webster, Franklin, Grant, Marshall, Jefferson, Emerson, Longfellow, Fulton, Irving, Edwards, Morse, Farragut, Clay, Hawthorne, Peabody, Lee, Cooper, Whitney, Audubon, Morse, Beecher, Kent, Story, John Adams, Manning, Gilbert Slew, Art, Amy Gray, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Holmes, Edgar Poe, William Cooper, Phillips Brooks, Bryant, Frances Willard, Jackson, Danforth, Motley. These are the immortals up to the date of the last list we know.

Confederate Pension.

Please tell me whom to apply to for information about a pension for a widow of a Confederate veteran. M. G. The Auditor of Virginia, Library Building, Richmond, Va.

Champion Typist.

If Miss A. won typewriter speed championship in 1912 and in 1913 would it be proper to call her a new champion? S. B. B. No.

Mayor's Bridge.

Why has the street railway company not yet started service over the new bridge? It has not yet been possible to arrange to do so. There are a few matters to be settled, of which the persons outside can have no adequate information. The general intention of the street railway people here is to give the best possible service, and you will appreciate the results of this intention if you will compare the Richmond lines with those in other cities and listen to the comments favorable to the street railway of the Baltimore or the Philadelphia who has lately visited Richmond.

Religious.

Did Robert Ingersoll, at the close of his life, accept orthodox religion? Did he deny the doctrine of a future life? Did he express publicly a defile to stifle him dead? J. W. J. He did not. No. It is said that he did. "The rest of the world" asks us our views on certain religious questions. These need not be stated, on the well-known grounds that all sensible persons entertain the same opinion on all these matters, and that no person ever tells what that opinion is.

Poultry.

Is the owner of a dog responsible for damage which the animal does to turkeys and chickens in the neighborhood? Would it not be possible to arrange on a large scale for hawks on hawk scamps? Hiding the country, a hawk would go far to give success to poultry-raising. J. H. M. Yes. He is, and proper damage may be recovered by suit. A fine thing, so far as we see. But we are not much inclined to sit on the jury which condemns all hawks to death without larger information than we now possess on the subject. We too well recall the world's applause of Uncle Toby's attitude towards the fly and the spider, which admiration of the value of this enterprising insect as a scavenger to be dead certain that his present lack of popularity is well deserved, and we have noted that about the time that one school of philosophers has succeeded in inducing the farmers to exterminate the cross-eyed Jay bird over some considerable region, another has discovered that Jay bird music is the one thing which will keep a mule in a pleasant frame of mind, and we are, consequently, wary of advising any wholesale disturbance of nature's order, lest a worse thing befall.

Home for Epileptics.

To whom should I write for information about a home for epileptics in Virginia? READER. The State Board of Health Capitol Building Richmond Va.

Simpson.

Do you give the outline of the story, "Simpson," by Elmer Morham? E. M. DAVIS. Simpson is a retired business man, who, in the prime of life, organized a bachelor club, which leases a fine old English castle in the country, with the verbal overconfidence of the uniformed, the members nourish a hope never realized in this life of years—that they may be saved from women, by one the unfortunate fall to the superstitious of the universal conqueror, until Simpson himself is left ignominious downfall.

Patience.

Patience. Sweet beneath the cliffs of Hollywood, Carve deep his name, among the names Of those who wrought Virginia's good. A youth in war, he did his part; A man in peace, he lifted men; By gifts of tongue and tongue and heart, Above the things of common ken, C. CONWAY BAKER. Montross, Va., October 23.

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